

Message Text

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SUBJ: TRIBUNE DE GENEVA ARTICLE

1. FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF AN ARTICLE BY DOMINIQUE VON BURG IN WASHINGTON THAT APPEARED IN NOV 12 "TRIBUNE DE GENEVE" UNDER THE HEADLINE: "BERNE'S BICENTENNIAL GIVT; GENEROSITY THAT HAS ITS LIMITS".

2. WASHINGTON: ON THE OCCASION OF THE BICENTENNIAL, THE SIWSS CONFEDERATION HAS OFFERED 3 SCHOLARSHIPS TO AMERICAN POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS, A PRACTICE BERN INTENDS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE. BUT THE ALIENS POLICE WATCHES: IT IS STIPULATED THAT THESE STUDENTS CANNOT BRING THEIR FAMILIES. IN THE FIRST YEAR THIS CLAUSE DID NOT CAUSE TOO MUCH TROUBLE. TWO POST-GRADUATE BACHELORS ARE NOW IN GENEVA AND ZURICH STUDYING PSYCHOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY. BUT FOR THE NEXT YEAR (THE CANDIDATES HAVE TO BE IN BERN BY THE BEGINNING OF FEB) WASHINGTON HESITATES TO ACCEPT THE SWISS OFFER BECAUSE OF THE SWISS REFUSAL TO PERMIT THE CANDIDATES' WIVES AND CHILDREN TO COME TO SWITZERLAND.

IN THE SWISS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND, IT SEEMS, ALSO IN THE POLITICAL DEPT, THEY SEEM TO BE VERY EMBARRASSED. IT IS NOT EASY TO HAVE SUCH

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A LIMITATION ACCEPTED, WHEN THE STUDENTS ARE IN

FACT OFFICIAL GUESTS OF THE CONFEDERATION. ESPECIALLY WHEN EVERYBODY IN WASHINGTON IS PARTICULARLY TOUCHY ABOUT ANYTHING THAT MIGHT RESEMBLE SEXUAL OR RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. THE GOVT ITSELF IS UNDER CONSTANT PRESSURE OF MINORITY GROUPS OF ALL KINDS.

OF COURSE BERN'S ATTITUDE IS NOT REALLY STIFF. WHEN A SCHOLARSHIP IS EXTENDED BY A YEAR - AS THE POSSIBILITY CAN BE FORESEEN - THE STUDENT COULD THEN "IMPORT" HIS FAMILY. HE WOULD THEN GET A FAMILY ALLOCATION. AND EVEN FOR THE FIRST YEAR EXCEPTIONS COULD BE MADE. BUT IN BERN IT IS STATED THAT SINGLE CANDIDATES ARE GIVEN PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE READY TO LOOK KINDLY ON APPLICATIONS FROM MARRIED STUDENTS.

THE RESTRICTIVE CLAUSE OF THE FEDERAL ALIEN POLICE DATES FROM 1974. THE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS ARE NOT THE ONLY VICTIMS. THEREFORE THE RELATIVE LIBERALIZATION (IN THE SECOND YEAR) RESULTS LARGELY FROM THE PROTEST OF CERTAIN SWISS ACADEMIC CIRCLES. WILL THE AMERICANS THIS TIME PUT THEIR BACKS TO THE WALL FOR REASONS OF PRINCIPLE? IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE EVEN THOUGH UNLIKELY. BUT IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT IN THE EYES OF WASHINGTON, THIS BICENTENNIAL GIFT HAS NOT BEEN PRESENTED IN THE BEST WRAPPING. SOME DETAILS ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED BY THE SWISS CONFEDERATION: THEY INCLUDE HALF OF THE JOURNEY (ONLY THE RETURN, THE STUDENT HAS TO PAY HIS WAY TO SWITZERLAND) AND THE TUITION, 950 FRANCS PER MONTH. THE UNITED STATES ALSO OFFERS THREE SCHOLARSHIPS, ALTHOUGH THIS GESTURE IS NOT A FORMAL RECIPROCITY.
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